

U. S. MARINE READING LIST

“The U.S. Marine Reading List contains those classics to be read by all Marines as they serve our nation. It is a living list, which I shall update as necessary based on recommendations made by the Marine reading Board at Marine Corps University. The current list may be accessed over the Internet at: <http://www.mcu.usmc.mil/reading/readinglist.htm> . All references to reading by grade has been removed from the list. I want Marines to freely read selections from the entire list based on their own personal interests and local commander’s guidance. The list is divided into sections by general topic. Within each section, foundation books are listed first, with more advanced books toward the end of the list. Marines should read and discuss books from all sections.”

--J. L. Jones, General, U.S. Marine Corps,
Commandant of the Marine Corps

The Marine Corps Heritage Section

A Marine Named Mitch	Paige
Rifleman Dodd	Forester
U.S. Marines: 1775-1975	Simmons
Battle Cry	Uris
Fix Bayonets!	Thomason
Strong Men Armed	Leckie
The Right Kind of War	McCormick
The U.S. Marine Corps Story	Moskin
Tarawa	Sherrod
Iwo Jima, Legacy of Valor	Ross
Flights of Passage	Hynes
Unaccustomed to Fear	Willock
Breakout	Russ
First to Fight	Krulak
Semper Fidelis	Millett
With the Old Breed	Sledge
Once A Legend	Hoffman
Fortunate Son	Puller
Reminiscences of Marine	LeJeune
Chosin	Hammel
In Many a Strife	Millett
Once A Marine	Vandergrift
The Marine Corps’ Search for a Mission: 1880-1898	Bartlett
LeJeune	Schmidt
Maverick Marine	Twining
No Bended Knee	

Leadership, Memoir, and Biography Section

A Message to Garcia	Hubbard
Fields of Fire	Webb
Battle Leadership	Von Schell
Marine	Davis
Uncommon Men: SgtsMaj of the Marine Corps	Chapin

Acts of War
 Challenge of Command
 The Forgotten Soldier
 We Were Soldiers Once, and Young
 Three War Marine
 Pegasus Bridge
 Band of Brothers
 Company Commander
 Once an Eagle
 Profession of Arms
 Anatomy of Courage
 Freeman on Leadership
 Follow Me
 Grant Takes Command
 Morale: A Study of Men and Courage
 It Doesn't Take a Hero
 Patton: A Genius for War
 Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant
 Years of MacArthur
 The Quiet Warrior
 100 Days: The Memoirs of the Falklands
 Follow Me
 The General
 Pershing
 Eisenhower's Lieutenants
 Nimitz
 General of the Army: George C. Marshall
 Foundations of Moral Obligation
 Memoirs of General W. T. Sherman
 Nightengale's Song
 My American Journey

Holmes
 Nye
 Sajer
 Moore and Galloway
 Parry
 Ambrose
 Ambrose
 MacDonald
 Myrer
 Hackett
 Moran
 Smith
 Newman
 Catton
 Baynes
 Schwarzkopf
 D'Este
 Long
 James
 Buell
 Woodward
 Newman
 Forester
 Smythe
 Weigley
 Potter
 Cray
 Brennan
 Royster
 Timberg
 Powell

Theory, Nature, and History of War Section

Art of War
 On Infantry
 The Face of Battle
 Maneuver Warfare: An Anthology
 Gallipoli
 For the Common Defense
 On War
 Knight's Cross
 The Enlightened Soldier
 Race to the Swift
 Military Misfortunes
 Gates of Fire

Sun Tzu
 English & Gudmundsson
 Keegan
 Hooker
 Moorehead
 Millett & Maslowski
 Clausewitz
 Fraser
 White
 Simpkin
 Cohan
 Pressfield

What are Generals Made of
Generalship, It's Diseases and their Cures

Newman
Fuller

Strategy, Policy, and Civil-Military Relations Section

U.S. Constitution
Declaration of Independence
Strategy
The Military
Citizen Soldiers
Battle Cry of Freedom
On Strategy
Makers of Modern Strategy
George Washington and the American Military Tradition
The Making of Strategy
Eagle and Sword: Federalist and the Creation of the Military
Establishment in America
The Peloponnesian War
The 25 Year War
A Democracy at War
Military Innovation in the Interwar Period
On the Origins of War and the Preservation of Peace
Diplomacy
In Retrospect
The Best and the Brightest
Dereliction of Duty

Jefferson
Liddell Hart
Moskios
Ambrose
McPherson
Summers
Paret
Higginbotham
Murray
Kohn

Thucydides
Palmer
O'Neill
Millett & Murray
Kagan
Kissinger
McNamara
Halberstram
McMaster

Operations, Campaigns, and Battles Section

The Bridge at Dong-Ha
Fire in the Streets
The Buffalo Soldiers
Tip of the Spear
Grant and Lee
The Killer Angels
Operation Buffalo
BlackHawk Down
The Middle Parts of Fortune
Devil Dogs
Landscape Turned Red
The Price of Glory
The Breaking Point
Victory at High Tide
The Easter Offensive
No Victor, No Vanquished: Yom Kippur War
Phase Line Green

Miller
Hammel
Leckie
Michaels
Fuller
Shaara
Nolan
Bowden
Manning
Clark
Sears
Horne
Doughty
Heini
Turley
O'Ballance
Warr

The War of American Independence
At Dawn We Slept
Guadalcanal, The Definitive Account
Defeat into Victory
Utmost Savagery
Eagle Against the Sun
The General's War
Take That Hill! Royal Marines in the Falkland War
The Campaigns of Napoleon
To Lose a Battle
Korean War
A Bridge Too Far
A Woman at War

Higginbotham
Prange
Frank
Slim
Alexander
Spector
Gordon & Trainor
Vaux
Chandler
Horne
Ridgway
Ryan
Moore

Doctrine, Training, and Tactics Section

Starship Troopers
The Defense of Duffer's Drift
Soldier's Load
Red Badge of Courage
Ender's Game
Attacks
Common Sense Training
Maneuver Warfare Handbook
Battle Studies
Infantry in Battle
The Dynamics of Doctrine
Panzer Battles
Defense of Hill 781
Company Command: The Bottom Line
Dieppe: The Shame and the Glory
This Kind of War
Forward into Battle
How The War Was Won
The Killing Ground
Seeds of Disaster
Airwar in the Persian Gulf
Guns, Germs, and Steel

Heinlein
Swinton
Marshall
Crane
Card
Rommel
Collins
Lind
Ardant du Picq
U.S. Infantry School
Lupfer
Mellenthin
McDonough
Meyer
Robertson
Fehrenbach
Griffith
Travers
Travers
Doughty
Murray
Diamondy

Small Wars Section

The War of the Running Dogs
The Village
The Old Man's Trail
Terrorism Leader
War in the Shadows

Barber
West
Campbell
Laquer
Asprey

How We Won the War
 Firepower in Limited War
 Guerilla Strategies
 Small Wars Manual, NAVMC 2890
 Mao Tse-Tung on Guerilla Warfare
 Street Without Joy
 A People Numerous and Armed
 Che Guevara on Guerilla Warfare
 Hell in a Very Small Place
 The Army and Vietnam
 A Savage War of Peace
 Our Great Spring Victory
 From Beirut to Jerusalem
 A Bright Shining Lie
 Giap

Giap
 Scales
 Chaliand

 Mao Tse-Tung
 Fall
 Shy
 Guevara
 Fall
 Krepinevich
 Horne
 Van Tien Dung
 Friedman
 Sheehan
 MacDonald

“Sinews of War” Section
(Airpower, Command, Geography, Intelligence, Logistics, and Seapower)

American Gunboat Diplomacy
 Price of Admiralty
 U.S. Marines and Amphibious War
 History of U.S. Military Logistics
 Battle for the Falklands
 Airpower & Maneuver Warfare
 U.S. Marine Corps Aviation: 1912-Present
 History of Marine Corps Aviation in WWII
 Command in War
 Supplying War
 Moving Mountains
 Ultra in the West: The Normandy Campaign, 1944-1945
 Luftwaffe
 Clashes -- Air Combat Over North Vietnam
 War Secrets in the Ether
 Logistics in the National Defense
 Rise and Fall of the Great Powers

Hagan
 Keegan
 Isely & Crowl
 Peppers
 Hastings
 Van Creveld
 Mersky
 Sherrod
 Van Creveld
 Van Creveld
 Pagonis
 Bennett
 Murray
 Michely
 Flicke
 Eccles
 Kennedy

Commandant's Favorites

Commandant's Bedrock Foundation:

A Bright Shining Lie
Gods of War
Battle Cry
Cigars, Whiskey, and Winning
The Forgotten Soldier

Neil Sheehan
John Toland
Leon Uris
Al Kaltman
Guy Sajer

Commandants Current Favorites:

Gates of Fire
Citizen Soldiers
My American Journey
Breakout
Blackhawk Down
Marines of Autumn

Steven Pressfield
Stephen Ambrose
Colin Powell
Martin Russ
Mark Bowden
James Brady

Former Commandants' Choices:

29th Commandant General Alfred M. Gray:
Battle Leadership by Adolph Von Schell

30th Commandant General Carl E. Mundy:
We Were Soldiers Once and Young by Harold Moore and Joseph Galloway

31st Commandant General Charles C. Krulak:
Rifleman Dodd by C. S. Forrester